



Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff from lands modified by human activities can harm surface water and, in turn, change natural hydrologic patterns, accelerate natural stream flows, destroy aquatic habitat, and elevate pollutant concentrations. Such runoff is said to contain non-point source pollutants, which include sediment, suspended solids, nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), heavy metals, pathogens, toxins, oxygen-demanding substances and floating material.

The Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) operates its own stormwater system under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. The VAMC stormwater system is comprised of thirty catch basins and five outfalls that discharge to the City of Manchester MS4 and ultimately to Goldfish Pond in Manchester.

In response to rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, the VAMC has developed a stormwater management program designed to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff into the MS4 and thus into local water bodies. VAMC activities with the potential to impact the stormwater system include:

- ◆ General maintenance of buildings, grounds, and roads;
- ◆ Seasonal application of salt and de-icer to roads, parking lots and sidewalks;
- ◆ Construction projects more than one acre in size; and
- ◆ Spills and leaks.

The VAMC Stormwater Management Program comprises six elements that, when implemented together, are expected to result in significant reductions of non-point pollutants discharged into surface waters. These six elements include 1) Public Education and Outreach, 2) Public Involvement and Participation, 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, 4) Construction Site Runoff Control, 5) Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and 6) Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention.

If you notice improper dumping or non-storm water discharges on VAMC property, immediately notify Facility Service Ext. 6174. Report any off-campus dumping into Manchester storm drains to the City of Manchester Environmental Protection Division at 603-624-6513.

Manchester VAMC
718 Smyth Road
Manchester, NH 03104
Phone: 603-624-4366
<https://www.manchester.va.gov/>

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**



Stormwater: What Can You Do?

It is important to understand that, regardless of where you live, any stormwater runoff ultimately discharges to surface waters. In order to protect and preserve our ecological resources, be sure to take the following preventive measures for:

Lawn and Yard Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute surface waters. Yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

Don't over water. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler. Berm lawn and yard to prevent runoff and encourage water absorption (infiltration). Preserve and plant trees and shrubs to help keep soil in place.

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only in recommended amounts. More is not better! Use organic mulch and safer pest control methods. Compost or mulch yard waste and recycle as much as possible.

Instead of a hose, use a broom to sweep and collect sediment and organic matter from sidewalks and driveways. Use de-icing materials sparingly on driveways sidewalks. And drain swimming pools onto lawns or other vegetated areas.

Septic Systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by storm water and discharged into nearby water bodies. Pathogens can cause public health and environmental concerns. Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years). Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a water body. For example, one quart of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of water. Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground. Dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated recycling and drop-off locations in your town. Prevent gas and oil leaks and spills. Have your motor vehicle routinely serviced.

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

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